

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-13 are cancelled and new claims 14-31 are added. New claim 14 is based upon original claim 7 which has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 1. New claim 15 corresponds to original claim 2. New claim 16 is supported by page 12, lines 19 and 22 of the specification. New claim 17 corresponds to original claim 3 except that the reference numerals have been corrected, based upon the teachings of the specification on page 6. New claims 18-20 correspond to original claims 4-6, respectively. New claim 21 is supported at page 8, lines 22-28 of the specification. New claim 22 is supported at page 8, last line to page 9, line 7. New claim 23 is supported on page 9, lines 8-16. New claim 24 is supported on page 9, lines 17-27. New claim 25 is supported on page 9, line 28 to page 10, line 5. New claims 26-31 correspond to claims 8-13, respectively. Rejoinder of claims 26-31 is respectfully solicited upon an allowance of the elected product claims.

Turning to the Official Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Payson or Kunitake et al. or EP 0338133. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed as applied to the new claims.

Difference between the present invention and the prior art:

(1) Payson (USP 2,753,260)

Although the Payson reference teaches a high silicon-carbon tool steel for use in hot metal dies or punches, it does not mention at all a tablet machine comprising a punch and a die which are made of a high silicon-carbon tool steel. Since there is no disclosure of a tablet machine in the Payson reference, it is apparent that the subject matter of the invention as claimed in claim 14 is novel over the Payson reference.

With respect to new claims 15-20, Payson does not mention at all characteristic features of the claimed invention such as “carburization treatment”, “corrosive substances”, “Adhesive substance”, “acidic substance”, “adhesive active substance”, “adhesive low-melting substance”, “adhesive excipient”, and “depressed melting point”.

Thus, the subject matter of the invention as claimed in claims 15-20 is novel over the Payson reference.

With respect to new claims 21-25, although the Payson reference discloses other metal elements such as nickel, molybdenum or copper, their content is up to 0.5% as stated in column 2, lines 50-51. To the contrary, the high silicon-steel contains, among others, nickel as a metal element in an amount of 3-9% (claim 21), 1-4% (claim 22), 6-18% (claim 23), 6-16% (claim 24) and 5-10% (claim 25) which are higher than “up to 0.5%”.

Thus, the subject matter of new claims 21-25 are all novel over the Payson reference.

(2) Kunitake et al. (USP 3,431,101)

Kunitake disclose a hot-working die comprising a steel for thermal crack resistivity consisting essentially of 0.15 to 0.5% C, 1.0 to 3.0% Si, less than 1.2% Mn, 0.5 to 3.0% Cr, 0.01 to 1.5% Mo, 0.01 to 1.0% V, and 0.1 to 1.7% Al, and the rest being Fe.

However, throughout the specification of Kunitake et al., there is no disclosure of a tablet machine at all. Thus, the subject matter of the claimed inventions as claimed in claims 14-25 are novel over the Kunitake et al. reference.

With respect to new claims 15-20, Kunitake et al. does not teach any characteristic features of the claimed invention such as “carburization treatment”, “corrosive substance”, “adhesive substance”, “acidic substance”, “adhesive active substance”, “adhesive low-melting substance”, “adhesive excipient”, and “depressed melting point”.

Thus, the subject matter of the new claims are novel over Kunitake et al.

With respect to new claims 21-25, Al which is an essential metal element in the alloy steel by Kunitake et al. is not contained in the high silicon-steel described in claims 21-23 and 25.

It is to be noted that Kunitake et al. alloy steel contains Cr in an amount of 0.5-3.0% as an essential metal element, as is apparent from claim 1 of 3,431,101. On the other hand, the high silicon-steel used in the tablet machine contains Cr in an amount of 6-15% (claim 21), 8.16% (claim 22), 16-25% (claim 23), 12-20% (claim 24) and 8-13% (claim 25), respectively, which are higher than 0.5-3.0% in the Kunitake et al. alloy.

Further, Al is contained as an essential element in the steel of EP 338133, but Al is not contained in the high silicon-steel described in claims 21-23 and 25.

Therefore, the new claims 21-25 are novel over the Kunitake et al. reference.

(3) EP 338133

The European reference teaches a hot working press tool comprising steel and silicon for maintaining the oxidation resistance and raising the transformation temperature. However, in the reference there is no disclosure of a tablet machine. It is, therefore, apparent that the subject matter of the new claims are novel over EP 338133.

With respect to new claims 15-20, EP 338133 does not teach at all characteristic features of the claimed invention such as “carburization treatment”, “corrosive substance”, “adhesive substance”, “acidic substance”, “adhesive active substance”, “adhesive low-melting substance”, “adhesive excipient”, and “depressed melting point”.

Thus, the subject matter of the new claims are novel over EP 338133.

With respect to claims 21-25, the steel as claimed in claim 1 or 2 of EP 338133 consists essentially of C: 0.05-0.35%, Si: 0.80-2.5%, Mn: 10-2.0%, Cr: 7.0-13.0%, Mo: 0.50-3.0%, V: 0.10-0.60%, N: 0.005-0.10% and optionally Al: 0.005-0.5% and Fe: balance. To the contrary, the high silicon-steel described in claims 21-25 are different from the steel of EP 338133 in an amount of Si contained therein. That is, the amount of Si in EP 338133 is 0.80-2.5%, while it is 3.5-6% (claim 21), 3.5-6% (claim 22), 4-9% (claim 23), 2-4% (claim 24) and 4-7% (claim 25).

Further, Al is contained as an essential element in the steel of EP 338133, but Al is not contained in the high silicon-steel described in claims 21-23 and 25.

Furthermore, the steel of EP 338133 contains N in 0.005-0.10%, while the high silicon-steel used for the tablet machine does not contain N at all.

Consequently, there is a clear difference between the steel of EP 338133 and the high silicon-carbon steel described in claims 21-25. Thus, EP 338133 cannot deny the novelty of the subject matter of the present invention.

As to the issue of unobviousness, it is respectfully submitted that it is unobvious to those skilled in the art that corrosive substances (e.g. acidic substances) and adhesive substances can

successfully be tableted according to the present invention as fully disclosed in the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 22, 2003